

REMARKS

This paper is prepared in response to the Final Office action (Paper No. 20080427) mailed 1 May 2008.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 3 through 20 are pending in this application.

Listing of the Claims

Pursuant to 37 CFR §121(c), the claim listing, including the text of the claims, will serve to replace all prior versions of the claims, in the application.

Amendment of the Claims

Claims 7 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the feature of claims 9 and 1, respectively, by this Amendment.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 15-17, 19 and 20 have been canceled without disclaiming their subject matter by this Amendment.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Since claims 3 and 16 are canceled, the examiner's rejections are moot.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and Claim objections

Claims 1, 4-8, 15, 17 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Vizethum *et al.* (DE 4407993) in view of Kamiya *et al.* (JP 2003-268481), and further in view of the teachings of Chang *et al.* (KR 9208348), and still further in view of Hall *et al.* (WO 00/72777 A1) and Kruger (DE 2135004).

Claims 9-14 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The independent claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the feature of its dependent claim 9. That is, the independent form of claim 9 is not claim 7 as amended.

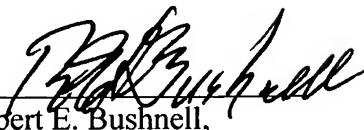
Therefore, claim 7 and its dependent claims 8 and 10-14 are allowable.

The dependent claim 18 has been rewritten to recite the features of the parent claim 1. Therefore, claim 18 is allowable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

No fees are incurred by this Amendment after Final.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Bushnell", written over a horizontal line.

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